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TIME MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

MR. SAMRE STEVENS AND DR. ROBERT BOWIE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OF

JUNE 2, 1977

QUESTION: You are nice to give us some time. We, as I am sure Herb explained when setting this up, were doing what we hope for TIME is a fairly complete report on the state of the intelligence community and when Bruce and I originally talked about the idea of doing such a story we thought it would be a good idea to concentrate or to get on the intelligence gathering analysis side of the intelligence community.

One reason we wanted to do it in addition to the fact that it has been an inherently interesting subject is that for the last three or four years, the considerable publicity that surrounded the Agency, the intelligence community, particularly the CIA, has been almost exclusively due to covert operations and no doubt we will tuch on that subject, too, but we would like to cast it in sort of forward looking terms and also look at the side of the Agency's work which is perhaps a little less sensational and sexy but extremely important, and to sort of find out what you two gentlemen are up to and what you can tell us about some structural changes that have been made and have been contemplated.



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To lead off, I have been interested to hear about the decision I gather you have a lot to do with around the turn of the year to merge those two political affices within the DDI -- OPR and OCI -- into a new single office of regional and political analysis. Have I used the acronym correctly? Why did you do that and how does this improve the efficiency of what you are trying to do here and improve the product?

MR. STEVENS: I think that the basic motivation behind that was involved in more than just bringing the political offices together. One of those offices was largely concerned with producing current intelligence, that is producing what we call event-driven kinds of analysis as opposed to primarily issue driven or broader kinds of analysis that deal with key problems as a whole that are affecting the policy.

We realize that we were putting too much emphasis and spending too many of our resources on kind of the daily reporting function at the expense of doing deeper analysis.

The other group was totally committed to doing longerterm, more basic research kinds of things, and while that is
essential and we have to do some of that, it had gotten
sort of divorced from the major problems that we were trying
to deal with to some extent. So we wanted to get all our
assets in one spot and see if we couldn't address the more
critical questions, particularly in total problem fashion,
than just reporting what was going on day to day on the one



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hand or doing longer-term basic research that cash't directly tied with the key questions that the political oremunity was really concerned with.

QUESTION: Does this involve cutting back on the total staff involved in political analysis within DDI? MR. STEVENS: No.

QUESTION: You got more or less the same number of troops on the ground?

MR. STEVENS: That is right.

DR. BOWIE: I am sure you understand this is only one office of the DDI out of six.

QUESTION: That is an Office of Strategic Analysis and an Office of Economic analysis, right?

MR. STEVENS: Weapons, intelligence and scientific intelligence.

QUESTION: Those are two different -- weapons --MR. STEVENS: Weapons intelligence, scientific intelligence, economic research, regional and political analysis, geographic and cartographic research.

QUESTION: I have lost count already.

MR. STEVENS: Office of Strategic Research, which is really military balance kinds of questions.

QUESTION: So how many offices in all, five?

MR. STEVENS: No, there are seven -- eight altogether counting the Office of Imagery Analysis and Office of Central



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QUESTION: Is there a loose correlation between the various offices and various customers? That is, does the Office of Strategic Analysis primarily service the military, supplementing what the military is getting from its own intelligence agencies? The Office of Economic Analysis, primarily the Commerce and Economic Offices of the State Department, or is there no such?

DR. BOWIE: In just looking at it through the lens that I see it from, that doesn't seem to be a very good --

MR. STEVENS: No, they are not that tightly connected. The Office of Economic Research works on questions that are of real importance to the Department of Defense and similarly the Strategic guys do a lot of work really that is responsive to the State Department. They obviously have sort of basic connections.

DR. BOWIE: Strategic analysis would be closest to fitting but in general across the board the mix -- it is more as if you were going or disciplines for particular problems. That is not literally the way it is but it is more like that, wouldn't you say, and therefore you put together teams drawn from difference offices depending upon the particular problem.

MR. STEVENS: The Weapons Intelligence guys analyze advance weapons systems, new ABM systems, new ICBMs. They

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of course have some pretty close connections with parts of the defense technology community, DDR&E, as well as defense intelligence, but even they, as Bob has said, become parts of teams that deal with broader problems.

QUESTION: I am interested also in the kind of classified journalistic operation that you run, daily output, and I guess you also have some weekly publications that circulate to various people in the Executive Branch. What are those publications exactly? Do you produce, for insance, the President's intelligence -- what is it called?

MR. STEVENS: Daily brief.

QUESTION: What is the proper title of that?

MR. STEVENS: The President's Daily Brief.

QUESTION: And is that the most exclusive circulation

MR. STEVENS: Yes.

QUESTION: How many copies of that?

MR. STEVENS: There are five, I guess five copies.

QUESTION: And that is produced out of your shop?

MR. STEVENS: Right.

QUESTION: Are you in effect the managing editor of

that?

thing?

MR. STENS: We have an editorial board which consists of people from various parts of the Agency that review the daily product including some people from NJOs.

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QUESTION: Does Vance, Brown, Brzezinski get their own copies of that?

MR. STEVENS: They all effectively see it, yes.

QUESTION: And isn't there another publication, intelligence summary, or something like that, that has a little wider circulation?

MR. STEVENS: Yes, there is a broader, a daily publication that goes out to a broader audience that contains a lot of what is in the President's daily brief but not all but is still fairly selective.

QUESTION: What is that called?

MR. STEVENS: That is the National Intelligence Daily.

QUESTION: A couple of hundred?

MR. STEVENS: Less than that.

QUESTION: Less than 100?

MR. STEVENS: About 100.

QUESTION: Is that newspaper format?

MR. STEVENS: Yes.

QUESTION: Could the two of you and particularly you, Dr. Bowie, tell us a little bit more than we were able to get into in the Director's Office about national estimates, what he hopes to do in that area, what you hope to do, what your mandate is?

DR. BOWIE: Well, the mandate is really, I suppose,

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the same one that existed from the beginning of the Agency, namely to produce objective and relevant analyses of either particular situations, particular regions, particular issues, or more broadly longer-term looks at tends and tendencies.

The purpose is to provide the underpinning of information necessary for people that are going to try to make policy decisions in all the different fields of foreign policy so you have some estimates which deal primarily with strategic military issues, some which deal with economics, and some which deal with (?) proliferation. Essentially any topic or every topic that is subject to policymaking is a suitable subject for some kind of intelligence contributions. Among the most important of those it takes the form of a national intelligence estimate, sort of a formal coordinated product of the — it is really the Director's product. It is the Director's responsibility to issue those, but they reflect the combined analysis and views of particularly the State Department and of the Defense Department so they are what is called coordinated.

There are in addition a fair number of items which I would say are equally important but which are not necessarily coordinated products. They are a product basically of the source of the agency. But even there they may be informal, couching base with some of the other interested spendies in order for you to get their comments or make sure you are not far out even though they are not formally coordinates.



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And then we just complete: -- and Sayme was talk about khis -- the research segment of the operation which is under Bayre's direction which produces a very large number of regular studies and research contributions, some analytical pieces. Some of these are for in-house use, sont of building blocks, moe within the intelligence community. Others are made available to consumers for particular uses or routine purposes, or they 8 Con't require the more formal proceedings -- weekly estimates or 9 inter-agency memoranda or other more elaborate procedures -- to assure you have got the input of different parts of the intelligency community.

But the range is comprehensive. As I was saying earlier, it covers waterfronts of things which have a bearing on the making of foreign policy and one that get's, I suppose, most -- assume to exist on the part of the public is the estimates of our Soviet military capability, strategic capabilities, and those of course are relevant to both the planning of the Defense Department and any SALT negotiations.

There is a whole range of military and arms control features, and the result is of course you have not just a single estimate but a whole lot of additional things which draw on these basic estimates which attempt to fit that information to the needs co, sny, either a particular set of SALM proposals or readtions to Soviet proposals, or the like.

So you have sort of a basic pagoing research which is

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under the direction of Sayre, and then the efforts through the IO's to draw on this resource, this research capability, frequently also to combine it with the research capabilities from IR or DIA according to subject matter and pull together a consolidated piece of estimating which is designed to be addressed to either, as I say, to an issue or a situation in a particular region, country, or SALT proposal, or you name it.

QUESTION: How many of these are ordered up as opposed to generated out of the intelligence community?

DR. BOWIE: I am too new at the job to generalize.

I have only been on here two months. I will let Sayre answer that.

MR. STEVENS: Well, I think probably the larger part are ordered up or are scheduled estimate production that has been regular to the extent that it is anticipated and expected of us. We couldn't not do it.

phrase because it is clear that certain kinds of subjects are on the agenda, the policy, and then you know already you are going to need and want parallel estimates for such obvious things as, say, the Middle Hast, South Africa, and so on. And then you have got some things which are just obviously going to be required like the military estimates as a regular thing. So I would say that probably -- I don't know what your



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percentages would be -- but will you produce the following, but a very large proportion are certainly generated by obvious needs or obvious requirements generated by events or policy proposals which are within the office or discussion so that they certainly are to a very large part tailored to fit the circumstances as they obviously are going to I think in a way too few, and this is just a result emerqe. of the inevitable pressures of time, too few are what you might call efforts to back away from the immediate problems, immediate events, to get a somewhat longer-term look at the way things are going or trends or problems that are a little bit over a horizon, and I hope among other things to do a little more of that, but I think it is inevitable that the major part of the product will be added to what are already recognized as policy issues, policy problems.

QUESTION: There has been a fairly lively in-group debate about whether the intelligence estimate process was better when you had a board or better under the NIO system. Is the management generally content with the system as it exists or will there be some more changes coming along in the estimate process?

DR. BOWIE: Really since I have been on board one of the principal things I have been trying to assess, in answer to that question, my impression is that the board, say, by 1973, had somewhat run out of steam. It was not the same.

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It was not as effective, not as relevant, not as efficient or suitable as it had been set up in 1952 by Langer.

There were a number of reasons for this. I am not terribly eager to have these all quoted.

QUESTION: Would you like to put it off the record?

DR. BOWIE: -- put it off the record not to explain it to you but I don't want it quoted in so many words. Will you treat it this way? Basically it seemed to me that it had become too routine to promote people up onto the board. Too many had stayed too long, work was actually being done in an active sense by too limited a number.

The Board to some extent had become somewhat of an ivory tower and a little too removed, a little bit too Olympian -- this is my impression.

QUESTION: Was this because of the system or because of the people?

DR. BOWIE: Well, it was a combination of circumstances, it seems to me, and then you had the period, frankly, of the Nixon-Kissinger period when I don't really think they wanted this kind of intelligence, so as a result of this partly isolated because they didn't want it here, this sort of objective analysis, and altogether it seemed to me -- I am just basing this on what I have learned by talking to people -- but it seemed to have lost some of its steam and vigor and I think the MIOs was an effort to convert to a

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system that would be more in contact with the needs of users and more responsive to the requirements and more able to draw on all the variety of assets which were available. The method used by the Board was to have its own staff do its own drafting to essentially have contributions from others, and I think this created a feeling on the part of lots of the analysts that they were just being used. Would that be a fair statement?

MR. STEVENS: Yes, I think they tended to feel that they were not a part of the critical end game of the whole business which is producing the estimate, and often times there were gaps. The analysts, when the chips are down, are the guys that really know the facts and the details and . the ins and outs and the nuances that are key in putting it all together and you have to get those people really individually deeply involved in the thing in order to make best use of them, and that had sort of broken down.

MR. BOWIE: I think there is another objective fact of which I sort of mentioned earlier and that is the expanse and breadth of that subject matter. The subject matter in the first period, say 50's, was very heavily focused on the analysis of Soviet military capabilities and related things and you could have people who might not themselves be experts on those issues but nevertheless were pretty good at reviewing and giving (unclear) and so on. And the



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relations to others like allies and so on was pretty much foreign policy type relations. It seems to me now the things you have to get into require much more expert knowledge and depth over a much wider range of subject matter and therefore the need for finding a better way to mobilize the expertise than merely a rather limited number of people who were the staff of the board seemed to me was just inherent. It wasn't so much that the people -- many of the people on the staff were very good people but nevertheless they couldn't necessarily be masters of all the subject matter.

I think the new system was designed to try to meet the best of both worlds. I don't think it is ideal as it now operates because obviously different NIOs handle it in different ways. I personally think that it is at is best when the NIO does make a real substantive contribution but is able to draw together a group of analyists who really make up a working party or a team so that you really do have a genuine collaboration, maybe from within the agency, by ideally including people from INR or DIA, and then you really do have then a joint --

QUESTION: -- Johns Hopkins just for instance, getting back to what we were talking about earlier, avoiding the team by team dichotomy, but bringing in people from outside.

> DR. BOWIE: But we haven't actually done that as I

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have said, to this point. It is perfectly conceivable that you could bring in an external expert on certain kinds of things But in any event it seems to me the ideal of these to the NIOs was to be able to both have the mobilizing capability which they could provide and at the same time utilize the expertise in the research parts of the staff.

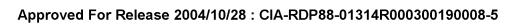
Now both of us would agree, I am sure, that it didn't always work ideally. Sometimes the things are too much cut and paste, not really integrated by the NIO. Sometimes talent that you want isn't necessarily all there.

QUESTION: When an NIO produced an estimate, came up and reached its customer, it had his name on it?

QUESTION: Or hers in some cases?

DR. BOWIE: Not strictly. It was still the Director's product. Let me just add one other thing. think that one of the losses in disbanning the Board was that the quality control function got lost a bit, so everything depends upon the NIO's own ability to monitor the quality. I think we are going to have to go back to some additional forms of quality control whether it is some kind of review panel or probably the use of outsiders to some degree as a review or device, not to Team A, but the use of experts from outside to perhaps review.

> QUESTION: Are we on the record, by the way? DR. BOWIE: Yes, I am sorry.



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process to have that kind of review. The Board really used to be very good. I of course sort of grew up in the scientific and technical parts of the analysis business here in the agency. They were extremely good at really forcing people who are experts in the narrow field to present the information in ways that it is understood by people who are not experts in that field, and really forcing some kind of simple-minded logical scrutiny on the analysis that is done that often times is lost in the detailed treatment of the subject. And I think that is important.

DR. BOWIE: And at their best I think they were able to say what are the premises on which we are pursuing our analysis, and it seems to me that some of the mistakes in intelligence like any other thinking are due to unanalyzed premises, which you then sort of treat as obvious and go on from there, and it seems to me that the good Board, made of realtly good critical minds who aren't afraid to ask the kinds of questions that experts maybe don't ask of one another can say, "Wait a minute. Where are we starting from here?" In other words, I am perfectly sure that the good review panel -- I don't think we should go back to the old system in the sense of recreating the old board, but I think that portion of the function of the board which was a function of review, probing, quality control, is something that is

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currently lacking and needs to be reinvented. I happen to think also that for some purposes the use of outside experts as a review device would be useful, but it seems to me that we can combine both the in-house board or panel type thing and the external group of consultants who you bring in two or three, not to do a Team B polarized thing but to be a critical analysis of is this a good study. Is it objective? Is it well done? And if you get people from different points of view, you may not ask them to agree with the outcome, you can just ask them to certify that it is quite a respectable outcome. At least that is my conception of the outside panel kind of thing. Sayer may have a little more on that.

MR. STEVENS: No.

MR. STEVENS: Yes.

QUESTION: The national estimate process is not in and of the CIA, is that correct? It is answerable to the Director in his capacity as Director of Central Intelligence; is that right? The estimaters can range across the entire Board?

QUESTION: What about within the CIA itself, within the DDI, has there been some use of outsiders here and is that likely to continue?

MR. STEVENS: Yes, indeed. We rely very heavily on outsiders in a lot of different ways. We have a large number of contracts for outside analytical support issues,

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Approved For Release 2004/10/28: CIA-RDP88-01314R000300190008-5 particularly in technical areas, economic areas, and so on, military. He rely very heavily on that. But we have lots and lots of consultants who review our papers and talk to us about problems that we have and we have continuing relationships with a lot of people in the private sector and other parts of the government, and so on. It is critically important for us to maintain that. We really have to do that.

I was going to say that, because as QUESTION: Strobe said, one of the points we are going to make in this piece is the prepondernance of effort here lying on the analytical side, intelligence side, rather than in clandestine operations.

I wanted to bring out the point that some of your favorite authors, Marks and Marquetti, say that this is not true, that the preponderance of effort does go into the clandes-Is there some way that we can illustrate the point tine side. that we are about to try to make in terms of effort, percentages of people, percentages of the attention of the leadership of the Agency or something that will show us some evidence of the preponderance of intelligence and analysis?

MR. STEVENS: Well, I think there has been -- I think it is pretty clear from one who operates within the system that the driving concern really in most of the agency activities really runsinto the end game in trying to answer



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specific intelligence questions. Now I am not sure you can, and we couldn't anyway, relate that in terms of percentages of manpower and so on, but the major collection efforts whether they be clandestine, technical or whatever it may be, have been driven really by unanswered and for the moment unanswerable kinds of questions that we are faced with in doing the analytical job, and that is really borne out pretty

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DR. BOWIE: I think you have to make the distinction even here between clandestine collection and covert action. Of course you know my own impression is that you don't reat technical means of collection as clandestine merely because they are classified. I take it you don't mean that.

QUESTION: Yes.

clearly, I think, looking at the past.

DR. BOWIE: If you really mean the clandestine meaning that in the (unclear) sense.

QUESTION: Operations.

DR. BOWIE: Well, I mean even clandestine collection.

QUESTION: We meant to the clandestine service. I mean, even if you take that in its broadest sense, at least as I observe it as a total newcomer to this part of this side of the fence, I simply don't see it. It may well be that in the past particularly when there were directors like Allen who were much interested in the covert activity and there



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was an entirely different environment, I couldn't answer it.
But all I can say is that as of now it seems to me that the clandestine activity is really a very modest part of the enterprise even as seen by the operation day to day, during the day, in terms of what gets the attention of the Director, in terms of what happens at the staff meetings, in terms of what happens in terms of people's attention in the building.

MR. STEVENS: Except I think it is important to make the point that the contribution of clandestine collection to our job is extraordinarily important; it really is.

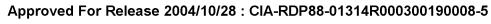
DR. BOWIE: I didn't mean to minimize that. I was saying it is simply now, as I see it, it is one of the streams that feeds in, an important one, sure, but it is one of the streams of information. It feeds in and it doesn't seem to me it --

MR. STEVENS: But it is terribly important.

DR. BOWIE: It certainly is in my mind seen as a source or servant of what you need in order to produce good --

QUESTION: I think it vulgarized what Marks and Marquetti were saying that the DDI is a front for the DDO, very simply.

QUESTION: As a veteran of the DDS&T, you may address yourself to this. Isn't the fruits of satellites and that kind of intelligence gathering technique, highly





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technological, high altitude, non-manned, a major part of your input here?

DR. BOWIE: Of course.

MR. STEVENS: Yes.

QUESTION: Are there problems about talking about this on the record?

MR. STEVENS: Indeed.

Let me say that new technical means of intelligence collection are tremendously important and they have enabled us to do the things that were absolutely impossible to do But they don't answer all the questions and in years past. I think where all of us are feeling deeply our shortcomings in in answering now a lot of the questions that lie behind much of the work we do. What is it that is really driving the Soviets in producing all the weapons systems they are producing and continuing to move ahead with this sort of inexorable program that they have got? The fact that we have gotten to the point where we are really beginning to worry and agonize those problems is only because they have been able now to answer a whole bunch of other questions like identifying the fact that new weapons systems are being developed and tested, getting an idea of what their characteristics are, the kinds of changes and improvements that have been made. And that has come hard so we are now moving into the kind of the next layer of problems which as you might expect are really the key problems



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and those questions increasingly demand of us an understanding of the foreign perceptions and foreign understandings of what the United States looks like to them allitarily. This is where the clandestine collection makes a peculiarly important contribution.

DR. BOWIE: I think this illustrates a fundamental point and part of what the Director said about the two facts, that American predominance is not what it once was. We don't just call the tune. And secondly, the world we are living in of interdependence absolutely demands cooperation on many fronts. When you want to cooperate with a lot of countries, even if it is a hostile country, for instance, we want to make arms control arrangements with the Soviet Union, we have just got to be able to see the world through their eyes. have got to see how they view things if you want to get deals and make arrangements. Or with friends, if we want to work on the proliferation problem with the Germans, we have just got to see how they see reprocessing, how they see their need for uranium, because otherwise you talk past one another, and so as Sayre was saying, you really much more need when you have a world in which you are trying to generate cooperative arrangements as just deterrence, say, of the Soviet Union, you really have to inderstand how the systems work, what their priorities are, how Is they see the world, what it is they want in their terms. 25 you can find grounds, bases, for working together.



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But you cannot do that by mere imaging them from your own view of the world, your priorities or your way of thinking.

QUESTION: This is as opposed to more simplistic kinds of troop counting, how many troops do they have in Romania.

QUESTION: Is this new, this episode you are talking about?

DR. BOWIE: It seems to me that as a result of the evolution of the situation it becomes even more urgent, more necessary. Sure it is always necessary to try to put yourself in the other fellow's shoes when you are trying to work with the other fellow, but it almost seems to me that there really is almost a change in order of magnitude in order of the necessity to be able to see things through the other people's eyes that you want to work with and understand their political processes and social processes so you can really understand how you can work together.

It seems to me this puts new demands on the whole 20 analytical process.



QUESTION: Does it also increase the risk that you will be accused by everybody that criticizes you, that you are intervening in policymaking, that by psychoanalyzing the opposition or even friends you are trying to manipulate the 25 policy response as opposed to just telling the consumer at the

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NSC or wherever that --

DR. BOWIE: It seems to me any real good intelligence has the occupational hazard of being charged with trying to influence policy, because in a certain fundamental sense trying to depict the actual conditions with which a person must contend if he is trying to affect those conditions, sets parameters, sets limits. It establishes obstacles with which he must cope.

Now if you wish, in doing that you are certainly affecting the landscape that he is dealing with. That is what your purpose is. But you are not trying to tell him how he should deal with it. It is a very fine line, but it seems to me if we are not making the policymakers' problem more vivid, we are not doing our job, and if that means -- in a certain sense you are saying to him this route is just not open to you and this route may be possible, but if you are doing it honestly you are not saying you must make this choice, you just say this as best we can make it out is the way it is.

MR. STEVENS: It is harder to deal with some of these problems with the same high credibility that you can sometimes achieve in doing technical analysis, for example, which leaves you as you suggest, more open to the challenge to the charge that your are putting out --

QUESTION: But as you say it would become easier now to say how many tanks they have so now you have to go to



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the next stage.

MR. STEN

DR. BOWN

Now you can do either

can get an indulgence

QUESTION

MR. STEVENS: Basier and perhaps less important.

DR. BOWIE: We have got an appointment at 5:00.

Now you can do either of two things. You can ask whether we can get an indulgence or whatever they want, or --

QUESTION: I think we have pretty well covered it.
You have been very indulgent with us.

END



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